

REMARKS

The Title has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

New independent Claim 21 defines the invention as a method of manufacturing a vehicular frame assembly. Initially, an insert is provided having a node securing portion and a mounting portion. A node is cast about the node securing portion of the insert. A first structural member is secured to the mounting portion of the insert. Lastly, a plurality of second structural members is secured to the node and to the first structural member to form a vehicular frame assembly. New independent Claim 31 defines the invention in a similar manner, except that a plurality of inserts are provided.

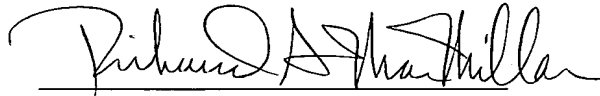
The Mariman et al. reference is non-analogous art to the claimed invention and, therefore, should not be considered at all when evaluating the patentability of the claimed invention. As set forth in Section 2141.01(a) of the MPEP, a reference must either be (1) in the field of the applicant's endeavor or (2) reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. With respect to the latter test, a reference is reasonably pertinent if, even though it may be in a different field from that of the inventor's endeavor, it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his problem.

With respect to the first leg of this test for analogous art, the field of the Mariman et al. reference (namely, a lightweight detachable air coupler for an air seeder) is quite different from the field of the claimed invention (namely, the manufacture and assembly of vehicle frame assemblies). Thus, the field of the Mariman et al. reference is clearly not within the field of the claimed invention. With respect to the second leg of this test for analogous art, the problems addressed by the Mariman et al. reference (namely, the difficulties associated with the weight and clumsiness of handling steel air couplers and the erosion of aluminum couplers as a result of a high speed stream of air and seed) are quite different from the problems addressed by the claimed invention (namely, the difficulties associated with forming some or all of the structural members of the vehicular frame assembly from different

materials). Thus, the Mariman et al. reference is clearly non-analogous art to the claimed invention and, therefore, should not be considered at all when evaluating the patentability of the claimed invention.

The WO 02/04276 reference does not show or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, the WO 02/04276 reference does not show or suggest the steps of casting a node about the node securing portion of the insert, securing a first structural member to the mounting portion of the insert, and securing a plurality of second structural members to the node and to the first structural member to form a vehicular frame assembly, as specifically claimed. Rather the WO 02/04276 reference merely discloses that the junction element 2 may be formed by casting. Thus, it is believed that the claimed invention is patentable over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard S. MacMillan", written over a horizontal line.

Richard S. MacMillan
Reg. No. 30,085

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fifth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900